

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0030] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Al **[0030]** The floating bearing 20 is located between the femoral component 16 and the tibial component 18. The floating bearing 20 has a substantially planar inferior bearing surface 52 which slidably moves relative to the highly polished tibial bearing surface 54, further discussed herein. The floating bearing 20 further includes a first bearing surface 28 and a second bearing surface 30. The first bearing surface 28 and the second bearing surface 30 articulate with the first bearing surface 28 of the condyle 24 and the second bearing surface 30 of the condyle 26 of the femoral component 16. Positioned between the first and second bearing surfaces 28 and 30 is a circular, or other appropriate shapes as discussed, opening 60 that is slidably positioned around a guide post 62. The opening 60 is defined by a substantially perpendicular peripheral sidewall 64 which is operable to engage the guide post 62. The floating bearing 20 is preferably formed from a surgical grade, low friction, low wearing plastic, such as UHMWPE or other suitable material.

Please replace Paragraph [0031] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0031] The center guide post 62 includes a substantially oval shaped outer peripheral sidewall 66 or any other appropriately shaped sidewall, such as those disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,165,223 and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/659448 entitled "Floating Bearing Knee Joint Prosthesis With A Fixed Tibial

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Post", which are hereby incorporated by reference. The guide post 62 is preferably formed to be removably attached to the tibial component 18 by a threaded fastener 68 or any other suitable means. Additionally, the guide post 62 may be formed integral with the tibial component 18. The center guide post 62 is preferably formed of cobalt-chromium-molybdenum alloy or other suitable biocompatible material. The peripheral sidewall 66 of the guide post 62 is highly polished to provide a substantially smooth surface to articulate with the generally, and exemplary, rectangular opening 60. It is also contemplated that the guide post 62 be constructed of an alloy having a polymeric material defining the peripheral sidewall 66 to provide a substantially smooth surface to articulate with the floating bearing 20. Alternatively, the guide post 62 may be removed from the knee joint prosthesis 10 to provide a different constraint on the floating bearing 20 and the femoral component 16.

Please replace Paragraph [0038] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

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[0038] Turning to FIGS. 8a-8e, partial sagittal sectional views of the knee joint prosthesis 10 illustrating the movement of the femoral component 16, the floating bearing 20 and the linkage mechanism 22 relative to the tibial component 18 are shown from full extension in FIG. 8a to full flexion in FIG. 8e. In FIG. 8a, the knee joint prosthesis 10, both anteriorly and posteriorly, is inherently stable at full extension when the patient is standing. In this position, the first and second femoral bearing surfaces ~~and~~ are rested within the first and second bearing surfaces 28 and 30 of the floating bearing 20, respectively. If the knee joint prosthesis 10 would undergo a large

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hyperextension or forward rollback (approximately 10 degrees), the linkage mechanism 22 would engage the femoral component 16 and the tibial component 18. This engagement will further avoid posterior dislocation of the femoral component 16 relative to the tibial component 18.

Please amend the Abstract section of the specification as rewritten in amendment format.

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The invention relates to a knee joint prosthesis for replacing the articulating knee portion of a femur and a tibia. The knee joint prosthesis includes a femoral component, a tibial component, a bearing member, a guide post and a mechanically reconstructed ligament. The femoral component includes a first femoral bearing surface and a second femoral bearing surface. The tibial component includes a tibial bearing surface. The bearing member includes a first bearing surface which is operable to articulate with the first femoral bearing surface, a second bearing surface which is operable to articulate with the second femoral bearing surface and a third bearing surface which is operable to articulate with the tibial bearing surface. The guide post extends from the tibial component. The mechanically reconstructed ligament is coupled to both the tibial component and the femoral component to prevent the knee joints from dislocating and guiding the femoral component along a desired path during extension and flexion.
